

# Hurricane Preparedness

We are now officially back into the six month hurricane season. We should all be prepared to take action to lessen a storm's impact. The Town has worked with county and state officials to develop comprehensive plans to respond effectively and to ease the evacuation and re-entry processes. In addition, we have also developed strategies to expedite and ease our recovery efforts by establishing an emergency reserve account to fund these activities and by amending our Land Management Ordinance to facilitate a rapid reestablishment of our community following a hurricane or other disaster. In the event of a potential or actual storm strike, you play a key role in a successful pre- and post-disaster scenario. Your Town wants you to be prepared for whatever comes our way this year.

## Prepare Your Home

- Consider covering all of your home's windows with pre-cut ply wood or hurricane shutters to protect your windows from high winds.
- Plan to bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage/recycling cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Turn off utilities and propane tank.
- Ensure a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- Document, photograph or videotape possessions for insurance purposes.
- Close interior doors.

## Prepare Your Business

- Carefully assess how your company functions, both internally and externally, to determine essential personnel, materials, procedures and what equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.
- Identify operations critical to survival and recovery.
- Plan what you will do if your building or store is not accessible.
- Consider if you can run the business from a different location or from your home.
- Develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities in case a disaster makes your location unusable.
- Document, photograph or videotape possessions for insurance purposes.

## Listen to Local Officials

Learn about the emergency plans that have been established. Listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials. **Know your local radio stations and other media outlets.**

## Evacuation

The Governor of South Carolina may encourage a voluntary evacuation or require a mandatory evacuation. You are encouraged to evacuate when instructed. Evacuations of specific areas occur because authorities determine that there is an immediate threat to your life and safety. **PREPARE NOW.** Know where you will go if evacuated. Anticipate that roads on and off the Island will be congested and difficult to maneuver. Leave early if possible.

If you don't have reliable transportation of your own, you need to determine in advance what other options are available from your family, neighbors or local government. Please contact Hilton Head Island's Emergency Management Office in advance at (843) 682-5156 or (843) 682-5119 if you do not have transportation off the Island so we can assist you. For major evacuations, a shuttle will be provided from various locations on the Island to the Hilton Head Island Airport where residents and visitors will be transported to a public shelter.

The following are pick-up points to be transported to the Hilton Head Island Airport where residents and visitors will be transported to a public shelter on the mainland via Palmetto Breeze buses:

- 151 Gumtree Road (in front of the Boys and Girls Club)
- 173 Marshland Road (in front of the Elks Club)
- 430 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Pineland Station)
- 450 Spanish Wells Road (in front of Grace Community Church)
- 24 Pope Avenue (in front of Holy Family Catholic Church)
- 663 William Hilton Parkway (in front of Hilton Head Resort)

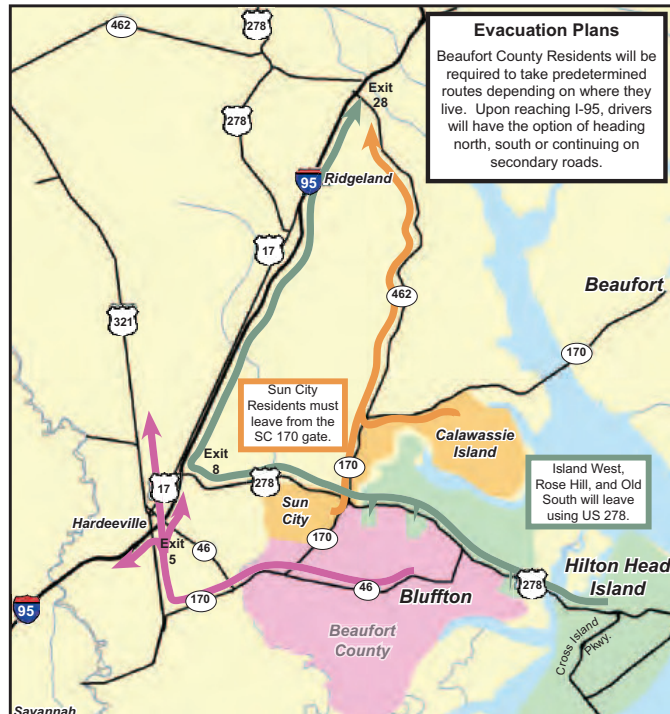
If you have a medical condition that requires special attention or care, please contact the Hilton Head Island Emergency Management Office at (843) 682-5156 or (843) 682-5119 in order to provide you assistance, preferably before an event.

**Sign-up for the Town's free e-subscription service which enables residents to subscribe to emergency alerts via email or text.**

This e-subscription service will be used in conjunction with our existing website and Citizen Hotline (**1-800-963-5023**) to provide emergency information. The Town of Hilton Head Island will only utilize the "Emergency Alerts" Topic of our e-subscription service during an emergency or disaster, particularly in an evacuation or during the recovery from an event which has caused significant damage.

The Town encourages residents to sign-up for the e-subscription service and link it to their cell phone so that the messages will be received in a timely manner (standard text messaging rates will apply).

Visit our Website to sign-up today!  
[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)



## After-the-Storm Contact Information

While out of town, you can obtain updated information regarding Hilton Head Island by calling this toll-free number: **1-800-963-5023**. Recorded messages will advise of road conditions, damage estimates, utility restoration, shelter information, re-entry times, and other pertinent information. You may also access this information on the following websites:

[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov) and [www.bcgov.net](http://www.bcgov.net)